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Message Text

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42
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 058437
P R 171724Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8612
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 09804

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CB, FR
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM CHENG HENG TO PRESIDENT FORD

REF (A) PARIS 09616 EXDIS; (B) STATE 087818 EXDIS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A ROUGH TRANSLATION OF A LETTER IN FRENCH WHICH FORMER CHIEF OF STATE OF CAMBODIA CHENG HENG HAS ASKED TO BE CONVEYED TO THE PRESIDENT. WE WILL BE POUCHING THE FRENCH ORIGINAL AND THE ATTACHED LIST OF MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY.

"PARIS, 17 APRIL 1975

MR. PRESIDENT:
I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOU THAT, MOVED BY CONCERN FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PROBLEM AND FOR REASONS OF HEALTH, I DECIDED TO LEAVE MY COUNTRY, ACCOMPANIED BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY, TO COME TO PARIS TO HAVE MEDICAL TREATMENT AS LAST YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO MONTHS AND ALSO TO FACILITATE THE DEPARTURE OF MARSHAL LON NOL AND TO LEAVE THE WAY OPEN FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF PEACE.

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH WAS SO INFORMED ON MARCH 27, 1975, AND I REGRET THAT IT DID NOT THEN GIVE
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ME ANY INKLING OF ITS WITHDRAWAL.

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NOTING THE EVOLUTION WHICH SEEMS TO LEAD INELUCTABLY TO THE SEIZURE OF POWER BY THE "OTHER SIDE" IN PHNOM PENH, AND BEING ON THE LIST OF THE SEVEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH I FIND IT COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE TO RETURN TO MY COUNTRY AND TO FIND THE MEANS OF LIVING ABROAD, THROUGH A LACK OF FORESIGHT.

ALLOW ME TO ASK YOU OUT OF YOUR KINDNESS TO AFFORD THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM FOR ME AND FOR THE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY ON THE ATTACHED LIST. MR. DUONG SORETH, MY SON-IN-LAW, FORMER MINISTER OF INDUSTRY IN THE FIRST AND SECOND LONG BORET CABINETS, NOW ALONE ON PHNOM PENH, HAS ASKED TO JOIN ME IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

THAT IS TO SAY: TO AUTHORIZE ME TO INSTALL MYSELF AND THE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

(1) PROVIDE ME APPROPRIATE HOUSING;
(2) GIVE ME SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SETTLING AND FOR LIVING IN AMERICA WITH THE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY;
(3) PROVIDE WORK FOR MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY;
(4) PROVIDE PLANE TICKETS FOR THE PASSAGE AND BAGGAGE AS WELL AS FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE TRIP;
(5) GRANT FUNDS TO COVER THE EXPENSES OF MY STAY IN PARIS FROM MY ARRIVAL TO MY DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES FOR MYSELF AND THE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY.

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41
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 058442
P R 171724Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 09804

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EXDIS

IN HOPING FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THIS POSITION
I ASK YOU TO ACCEPT MR. PRESIDENT THE ASSURANCES OF MY
HIGH CONSIDERATION AND MY PROFOUND GRATITUDE.
/S/ CHENG HENG, FORMER CHIEF OF STATE OF CAMBODIA."

2. COMMENT: WE INFORMED CHENG HENG THAT WE WOULD
FORWARD HIS LETTER TO THE DEPARTMENT. IN VIEW OF CHENG
HENG'S POSITION AS FORMER CHIEF OF STATE, WE BELIEVE
THAT DEPARTMENT WILL WISH TO PROVIDE SOME FORMAL, WRITTEN
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HIS LETTER. UNTIL SUCH A REPLY CAN
BE CONVEYED TO HIM, WE DO NOT THINK IT PROPER TO TAKE
ACTION SET FORTH IN PARA 2 REF B.

3. CHENG HENG HAS LEARNED THAT THE GRUNK IS CALLING FOR
HIS EXPULSION AND THAT OF GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ,
AND HE IS NOW CONCERNED ABOUT HIS PERSONEL SAFETY IN
FRANCE. HE HAS NOT MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF ASKING FOR
POLITICAL ASYLUM IN FRANCE.

4. PRIVATE LETTER FOR FORMER CHARGE IN PHNOM PENH,
THOMAS O. ENDERS IS ALSO BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.
STONE

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To: STATE
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